



## ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE November 30, 2001

George H. Ryan  
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen  
Homeland Security Director

- The Homeland Security Seminar series began earlier this month concluded on Thursday, November 29, 2001 in Quincy. However, the seminars are only the beginning of state-level efforts to train and inform communities about issues relating to citizen safety and security after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Every effort will be made to keep community leaders, law enforcement and emergency service providers informed about the latest developments and initiatives through the *Illinois Homeland Security Updates*. Information will also be posted on Illinois Emergency Management Agency website at [www.state.il.us/iema](http://www.state.il.us/iema).
- The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated on Wednesday, November 28, to conduct a scheduled, full-scale exercise of off-site evacuation plans around the Byron Nuclear Power Station near Rockford. Approximately 16 state agencies participated with the Winnebago and Ogle County Emergency Management Agencies in a test of notification, coordination, evacuation, and sheltering. The exercise was monitored and evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a regular part of the licensing procedures for the utility.

- **Illinois' Homeland Security Director, Matt Bettenhausen, also met with the US Coast Guard, the Chicago Police & Fire Departments, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to insure that all available resources are being leveraged to provide the greatest possible level of security in Lake Michigan and other critical state waterways.**
- **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) staff continues to respond to daily inquiries from first responders, hospitals, medical providers, health departments, and the general public on recommendations for handling suspicious packages and prophylactic treatment protocols. Additionally, IDPH staff continues to provide individual bio terrorism overviews upon the request of local public health and medical jurisdictions. As of November 26, IDPH laboratories in Springfield and Chicago have analyzed 1,282 samples for anthrax, all testing negative.**
- **In conjunction with the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and Illinois Hospital and Healthsystems Association, IDPH conducted a review of the revised State Emergency Medical Disaster Plan for hospital officials. The session was held on November 26, in Springfield. The purpose of the session was to provide a detailed review of the activation protocol and discuss major changes to the plan, last revised in 1999. More than 80 hospital officials attended the review.**
- **As a part of the strategy to tighten security along Illinois' roadways, Illinois State Police Commercial Vehicle Officers have been conducting hazardous materials details throughout the state. In November, officers conducted more than 900 commercial driver / vehicle hazardous materials inspections. More than 21,000 commercial vehicle inspections have been made by Illinois State troopers since**

the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, part of a program that conducted more than 100,000 inspections last year.

#### Number of Hazardous Materials Vehicle Inspections by Illinois State Police

SFY 2001	18,095
SFY 2002 (7/1/01-11/ 30/01)	6,500 (estimated)

#### FFY 2000 Summary of Trucks Weighed

State	Number Trucks Weighed	Number Citations Issued
Illinois	12,102,662	25,861
Wisconsin	794,127 (FFY99)	3,841 (FFY99)
Indiana	3,142,982 (FFY99)	9,485 (FFY99)
Kentucky	8,690,414 (FFY99)	4,626 (FFY99)
Missouri	4,187,336 (FFY99)	11,924 (FFY99)
Iowa	1,517,574 (FFY99)	9,367 (FFY99)

- All Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) field staff and supervisors, i.e., Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, Underground Storage Tank Inspectors, and Fire Prevention Inspectors, will attend an eight-hour Hazardous Materials training session on December 4, 2001 in Springfield.
- OSFM is conducting a survey to obtain a comprehensive, statewide overview of vehicles, equipment, and communication capabilities of fire departments in the state. This data will include more than 600 departments which are not a part of MABAS.

- As part of emergency / disaster planning, the Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is gathering information about county fairground around the state. Fairgrounds may be useful as a staging /recovery area in the event of an emergency/disaster. The data will be compiled and submitted to IEMA/SEOC.
- IDOA held a teleconference with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services to discuss and learn about the Global Positioning System North Carolina utilizes to address animal diseases and animals in emergency situations. This type of system may be utilized in the Regional Emergency Response Plan with which IDOA is involved.
- Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) is working on a training schedule to provide Radiation Hazardous Material response training to number of local first responder agencies. Interest in the training is an outgrowth of the Homeland Security seminars.
- The Illinois Commerce Commission's (ICC) Federal Track Inspectors are maintaining a close watch of the railroad tracks traversing the state. However, no violations out of the ordinary have been detected.
- A closing note: The Islamic holy month of Ramadan commenced on Saturday, November 17, 2001, and continues through Saturday, December 15, 2001. A period of reflection and devotion, Ramadan is a sacred month for more than one billion Muslims throughout the world, including some eight million in North America. Ramadan is a time of intensive worship, charity, and reading from the Qur'an, the sacred book of Islam. Participants also fast as a way of experiencing hunger and developing sympathy for the less fortunate. Although charity and

good deeds are always important in Islam, they have special significance at the end of Ramadan. As the month draws to a close, Muslims are obligated to share their blessings by feeding the poor and making contributions to mosques. A sense of generosity and gratitude colors these festivities. Just as Christmas and Hanukkah are observed in churches and synagogues throughout the country, it is important that we give the Muslim community the same respect during this holy period as we would expect to receive.